Production of cement

*30. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of cement in the country has been declining, year after year;

(b) if so, what are the figures of production year-wise during the last three years and the expected production during the current financial year; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the production of cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No. Sir. production of cement has not been declining year after year. On the contrary, the production has been increasing consistently as shown by the following figures for the last three years:—

Year	Central Production (in million tonnes)
1984-85	30.19
1985-86	33.13
1986-87	36.50

The production during the current financial year i.e. 1987-88 is likely to be 41.50 million tonnes.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase the production of Cement in the country:—

(i) The retention price of levy cement has been increased and the levy obligation of the cement industry has been reduced with the twin objective of compensating the industry for increase in the cost of production and improving its profitability.

(ii) A rebate in excise duty to the extent Rs. 20 per tonne and Rs. 50 per tonne has been given in respect of new units which commenced production between 1-1-82 to 31.3.86 and on and after 1.4.86 respectively.

(iii) The cement industry has been encouraged to set up captive diesel power generating capacity and appropriate relief by way of reduction in levy obligation is allowed to compensate for increase cost of cement production with the help of high cost DG. captive power.

(iv) The industry has been encouraged to convert wet process units into dry process units by giving suitable relief in levy obligation.

Schemes for Energy Development in Rajasthan

*31. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes to be undertaken during the Seventh Plan period for the development of energy in Rajasthan;

(b) what are the names of the places in Rajasthan where new power plants are proposed to be set up and what will be the generation capacity of each of the plants; and

(c) what amount of money has been allocated for the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The details of the power projects to be commissioned in the State Sector during the Seventh Plan period for the development of energy

in the State of Rajasthan are given below:—

Project	Place	Capacity (MW)
Kota Extn.	Kota Distt.	420
Ramgarh Gas Turbine	Jaisalmer Distt.	3
Mahi Bajaj Sagar	Banswara Distt.	140
Mangrol	Kota Distt.	6
Charanwala	Ganganagar Distt.	2
Suratgarh	Ganganagar Distt.	4
Anoopgarh Canal	Ganganagar Distt.	9
Pugal	Bikaner Distt.	2
Jakham	Chittorgarh Distt.	9
Etawah	Kota Distt.	0·5
Birsalpur	Bikaner Distt.	1.4
Mahi (Right Main Canal)	Banswara Distt.	0·8

(c) Rs. 920.76 crores have been provided in the State's Seventh Plan for power development in Rajasthan. The amount allocated in the Plan for implementation of the above power projects is Rs. 455.71 crores.

Appointment of Oil Dealers

*32. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending with different oil companies for the appointment of oil dealers;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to clear this backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Pendency is reckoned with reference to the number of locations in respect of which interviews are yet to be held by the four Oil Selection Boards. As on 1-10-1987, the number of such locations pending with the four Oil Selection Boards was 1060.

(b) The term of the former Oil Selection Boards expired in June, 1986. Owing to the non-functioning of the Oil Selection Boards, interviews for selection of dealers/distributors could not be held.

(c) The said Boards have since been re-constituted, are fully functional and have commenced disposing of the pending work.

Self Reliance in Cooking Gas

*33. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The time by when India is likely to become self-reliant in cooking gas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the consumption of cooking gas has re-